

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000100700001-6

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WILDWOOD, N.J.
LEADER

WEEKLY-7,692

APR 7 1966

Washed In

By A. C. Wilsey

THE LATE George Orwell, in his novel "1984," gave that year as the date when the eye of "Big Brother" would be on all of us in all phases of our lives, personal and otherwise. Well, for large numbers of citizens the "Eye" has arrived 18 years ahead of his prediction. It is already being used by the Federal Government, industry and probably more other groups and individuals than we can imagine.

MORE DEVICES than wire tapping and the conventional "bugging" of rooms is being used, although they probably lead the "Big Brother" parade. Wire tapping is very much in the news today, particularly in Pennsylvania. But snooping is also being done the old fashioned way, especially in industry, by private investigators. There is, for example, the case of Ralph Nader, the young lawyer whose sex, financial and other personal habits were delved into by General Motors because he wrote the book, "Unsafe At Any Speed," which discusses the disregard of safety by automobile manufacturers.

THEN THERE were the pharmaceutical manufacturers who turned undercover police methods against the Connecticut drug wholesaler who was selling their products at lower prices. They "planted" a man in the wholesaler's establishment.

CREATING greater shudders among people who realized how essential is personal pri-

electronic "snooping" devices. Some of these can bring in a conversation from another room and others listen in on what is being said in a house a block or more away.

SENATOR Clifford Case recently warned against the increasing danger to privacy of electronic snooping devices. Speaking before the Essex County Young Republicans, the Senator said:

"In no single respect is a free society more sharply distinguished from a totalitarian state than in the value it puts on privacy and the inviolability of private communications between its citizens."

SENATOR CASE said he had found a CIA employee operating an electronic detection device outside a hearing room of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Adm. William Raborn, CIA head, was briefing members at the time.

THE FRIGHTENING thing about the devices is that, thanks to the lack of integrity and responsibility on the part of their manufacturers, they can be purchased by anyone who has the price. And they are not too costly.

FRIGHTENING it should be to anyone with an iota of intelligence that the privacy of not only office and business, but the home—even the bedroom—as well can be invaded so easily. There is nothing remotely funny about such devices. No one has a moral right to tear away the privacy of another.

THIS IS AN evil that can grow and spread into a Frankenstein so horrible it could eventually destroy us or turn us into a totalitarian nation. No phase of life—business, industry, government on any level, organization, association, or personal—can be carried on safely, properly or effectively without varied degrees of privacy. Snooping is an evil that can never be completely eliminated, but must be fought and controlled on all government levels. There must be local, State and Federal laws against all invasions of privacy.

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